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INFO RUEHDS/AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA PRIORITY 0748  
RUEHEG/AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY 0378  
RUEHDR/AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM PRIORITY 0242  
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY 1407  
RUEHNR/AMEMBASSY NAIROBI PRIORITY 1546  
RUEHNY/AMEMBASSY OSLO PRIORITY 0396  
RUEHSM/AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM PRIORITY 0342  
RUEHOT/AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY 1765  
RUEHYN/AMEMBASSY SANAA PRIORITY 0169  
RUEHRH/AMEMBASSY RIYADH PRIORITY 0471  
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY 2315  
RUEHROV/AMEMBASSY VATICAN PRIORITY 0694  
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C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 001841

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AF/E FOR NOLE GAREY

E.O. 12958: DECL: 08/29/2017

TAGS: [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [SO](#) [IT](#)

SUBJECT: ICG ON SOMALIA: ITALY AGREES ON INVITATIONS TO  
CANADA AND YEMEN, BUT PREFERS DEFERRAL ON MEMBERSHIP  
EXPANSION

REF: SECSTATE 111993

Classified By: Acting Pol M/C Jonathan R. Cohen for reasons 1.4 (b) and  
(d).

¶1. (C) Poloff delivered reftel points to MFA Acting East Africa Office Director Domenico Polloni August 10, requesting Italian support for permanent observer status for Canada and Yemen in the International Contact Group on Somalia in anticipation of the upcoming ICG meeting in Rome September 10.

¶2. (C) Polloni responded August 29. He said Italy had no objection to including Canada and Yemen as observers in the September meeting, but was not yet prepared to formally enlarge the ICG. Polloni pointed out that a number of other countries had also expressed interest in ICG membership, including Ethiopia, Saudi Arabia and France. Polloni said more time was needed before contemplating an expansion.

¶3. (C) Nevertheless, Polloni said Canada and Yemen would be welcome as observers at the upcoming meeting, although they will not participate in the final session for the drafting of the communique.

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